

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 OIC-02 SS-15 NSC-05 OC-01 CCO-00 FCC-01

EB-04 COME-00 /068 R

DRAFTED BY OSD/OTCCS:MR GREY - EUR/RPM:EREHFELD

APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:EJSTREATOR

OSD/OTCCS - MR SOLOMON

OSD/ISA - GEN MCAULIFFE

JS/J-6 - GEN SCHULKE

----- 076786

R 121531Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO

INFO USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 248931

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROBLEM FACING NICS

REF: (A) USNATO 6122, (B) NAC 3250, (C) STATE

-- 234644

1. WE AGREE THAT ANTICIPATED PRICE ESCALATION OF NICS
PROJECTS MAY EVENTUALLY DOUBLE PREVIOUS NICS COST ESTIMATES.
THIS POSSIBILITY WAS RAISED WITH SECDEF LAIRD WHEN PROGRAM
WAS INITIALLY REVIEWED FOR NATIONAL APPROVAL. OUR IN-
HOUSE ESTIMATES MADE IN 1970 OF ABOUT DOLLARS 750 MILLION
FOR COMPLETING NICS MAY NOW BE TOO LOW BUT UNTIL SOME
ADDITIONAL NICS PROJECTS ARE PLACED ON CONTRACT, THIS
ESTIMATE REMAINS AS GOOD AS ANY. AS CASES IN POINT,
CONTRACTS FOR SPACE SEGMENT OF SATCOM PHASE III AND SSMA
EQUIPMENT FOR SATCOM PHASE II WERE AWARDED AT WELL BELOW
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NICSMA ESTIMATES.

2. BASED ON SLOW PACE AND CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETING NICS STAGE 1, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT NICSMA WILL BE UNABLE TO SPEND ANY MORE FUNDS THAN THOSE CURRENTLY ALLOTTED, OR TO BE ALLOTTED IN NEXT FIVE-YEAR SERIES OF INFRASTRUCTURE SLICES (150M IAU). FUNDS TO ENHANCE NICS STAGE 1 BY MAKING

IT SURVIVABLE THROUGH REDUNDANCY CAN BE PROGRAMMED IN SLICES 30 THROUGH 34. NICS STAGE 1 WILL PROVIDE NATO WITH ITS FIRST VIABLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM IN EARLY 1980S. SYSTEM RELIABILITY AND SURVIVABILITY CAN THEN BE ENHANCED AS ULTIMATE NICS CONCEPT IS EVENTUALLY IMPLEMENTED.

3. AS SUGGESTED REF A POSSIBILITY REMAINS THAT ULTIMATE NICS NODAL CONCEPT MAY NEVER BE IMPLEMENTED. HOWEVER, WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT NICS CONCEPT APPROVED BY MINISTERS IS SOUND AND SHOULD BE PURSUED AS LONG RANGE NATO GOAL. TO REACH THAT GOAL, NATO COMMUNICATIONS MUST BE IMPLEMENTED ON A STEP-BY-STEP BASIS, EACH STEP PROVIDING THOSE MOST URGENTLY NEEDED NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS.

4. WE HAVE REVIEWED GERMAN PAPER (REF B) AND FAILED TO NOTE PROPOSAL QUOTE TO REORIENT THE IVSN TO LINK IT MORE TO THE NODAL CONCEPT OF NICS. UNQUOTE RATHER PARA 3, CHAPTER 2 OF FRG ANNEX HIGHLIGHTS ADVANTAGES OF ADOPTING COMMON CHANNEL SIGNALING FOR IVSN (CONCEPT US APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE AT RECENT NJCEC PLENARY) SO THAT INITIAL VOICE SYSTEM CAN MORE EASILY AND ECONOMICALLY BE INTEGRATED INTO ULTIMATE NICS.

5. ABOVE ANALYSIS LEADS US TO CONCLUSION THAT MAJOR REDIRECTION OF NICS IS NOT REQUIRED AT THIS TIME. WE FEAR THAT RAISING SPECTER OF REDIRECTION WILL LEAD TO MORE STUDIES AND FURTHER SLOW DOWN URGENTLY NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS TO NATO COMMUNICATIONS.

6. WE AGREE THAT AT DECEMBER MINISTERIAL SECDEF MIGHT USEFULLY MAKE GENERAL REFERENCE TO OVERALL PROBLEMS FACING NICS AND NECESSITY FOR EARLY RESOLUTION OF THESE
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PROBLEMS. WE WILL PREPARE COMMENT FOR HIS CONSIDERATION.

7. OUR VIEWS ON SUBPARA 3A THROUGH D OF REF A FOLLOW:

A. SEE REF C.

B. ANY US PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION AT MARCH NJCEC PLENARY CAN BE SUBMITTED THROUGH MISSION TO MACBRIEN FOR INCLU-

SION IN NJCEC AGENDA. YOUR THOUGHTS WILL BE WELCOMED.

C. WE AGREE THAT ALLIED GOVERNMENTS MUST BE READY TO MAKE CONCESSIONS; HOWEVER, HARD POLITICAL FACTS OF LIFE

MUST BE FACED. GENERALLY, EACH OF OUR ALLIES WILL AGREE WITH CHANGES UNTIL THEY HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON NATION CONCERNED. AS EVIDENCED IN TARE PROCUREMENT, CHANGES IN PRIORITY OF IMPLEMENTATION WERE ACCOMMODATED AT PERM REP LEVEL AS CONDITION OF BID RELEASE. NATO DOES NOT HAVE ADEQUATE COMMUNICATIONS TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF MC 14/3 STRATEGY. ACCORDINGLY, WE MUST AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE EARLIEST POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION OF INCREMENTAL IMPROVEMENT TO NATO COMMUNICATION. STUDIES OR PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE THAT WILL INTERFERE WITH THIS OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE SUPPRESSED.

D. US PROPOSED BY LETTER AND AT SUBSEQUENT NJCEC PLENARY THAT NICSMA CONTRACT FOR SYSTEM ENGINEERING ASSISTANCE. TO DATE DG, NICSMA HAS NOT RESPONDED TO US OR NJCEC. MISSION SHOULD SEEK EARLY RESPONSE TO PROPOSAL. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, TELECOMMUNICATION, ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE248931
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPM:EREHFELD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740326-0347
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741150/aaaabqdt.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) USNATO 6122, (B) NAC 3250, (C) S, TATE
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <12-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROBLEM FACING NICS
TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NATO
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005